

Fifth Sunday of the Year

She's Got An Ology!



During my recent visit to Canada I was being driven in my niece's car when my great niece Addyson (aged four) announced: "I got to be a palaeontologist in school today". I was suitably impressed! It turned out that a group of scientists had visited her school and had done some educational exercises with them including one where they had to match the picture of the dinosaur skeleton with the picture of the dinosaur. That was how she got to be a palaeontologist. It reminded me of the television advertisement with Maureen Lipman as the doting Jewish grandmother so proud of her grandson's disappointing examination results including a D in psychology who announced "He's got an ology!"

We all have an 'ology', we have an anthropology and more particularly, we have a Christian anthropology. By this stage you may be wondering what all this has to do with our understanding of the nature of the Church which we have been reflecting on for the past two weeks. In that the Church is made up of us and people like us, it has everything to do with it. The fundamental question asked and answered by Christian anthropology is "Who are we before God?"

In the light of God's revelation to us in Jesus Christ we don't just know what God is like, we know what we are like too. We have been given the means to ask and answer some very deep questions: "Are we by nature good or are we by nature bad?"; "What is our responsibility towards God and towards others?"; "How is our human condition affected by Original Sin?"; "What do we need from God?"

The Irish-American educationalist Professor Tom Groome in his most recent book: 'WILL THERE BE FAITH? Depends on Every Christian' makes the point convincingly that of all the important issues in our Faith, one of the most central is this very question of Christian Anthropology – the question which at its most basic asks: "Who are we before God?"

He gives a wonderful short summary of the answers which the Catholic tradition of Christianity has given to this question. His fundamental point is that we are made in the image and likeness of God and this involves two things:

- That in our essence we are one and we are good because that is the way God is.
- We are people called to live in loving relationship because that is the way God is, God is Trinity, God exists in loving relationship.

If that is who we are, what are we for?

That may seem a strange question, but there is an important truth that the Catholic Christian tradition has always held and which it held effectively throughout the challenge of the Protestant Reformation, that we are not in the words of John Calvin a 'massa peccati' ('mass of sin'), totally corrupt and hence only capable of being recipients of God's grace. The Catholic counter-claim was and is that the human condition, though 'fallen', remains in the divine image; though capable of evil, we are also capable of great good. We are not simply recipients of the grace of God, but as recipient's of God's grace we are participants in the work of our salvation and we can be bearers of the Good News to the world.

Thomas Groome has a great term to describe this aspect of our human condition, he calls it 'RESPONSE-ABILITY'. Certainly dependent totally on the grace of God for our salvation, we are nevertheless both recipients of God's call and again by God's grace capable of responding positively and effectively to that call. We have 'RESPONSE-ABILITY'.

All of this goes to the core of the Church. We are people created in the image and likeness of God who are called to more than community; we are called to communion, to a share in the life of God through the Sacraments. That was a point covered in some depth in last week's reflection. We are called too to exercise our Response- Ability by inviting others into that communion and that's a bit more than an invitation, it's more of a mandate:

He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' Matthew 28:19-20.



Parish of Our Lady & St Cuthbert

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Philip Kitchen**

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

Telephone: 01655 882145 Fax: 01655 882173 Email: info@olasc.org.uk Web: www.olasc.org.uk

Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, Maybole, a parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway. Charity number SC010576.

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 9.30 am
(Teas in the hall after Sunday Mass)

Weekday Mass

Mon 9am and Thurs 7pm
Sat 10am followed by Exposition

Celebration of Word and Communion

Tues, Wed and Fri 9am

Mass Intentions

Saturday pm: Thomas McLenigan (RIP)

Sunday: James McCartin (Ann)

Monday: Walter Brown (RIP)

Thursday: Betty Corbett (Ann)

Saturday am: John McLarty (Ann)

Saturday pm: Willie Cameron (RIP)

Liturgical calendar

Monday 6th February

Memorial of St Paul Miki
and Companions

Friday 10th February

Memorial of St Scholastica

Saturday 11th February

World Day of the Sick

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday

Useful numbers: Sacred Hearts, Girvan: 01465 713331
St Paul's, Ayr 01292 260197
St Margaret's, Ayr: 01292 263488

Church and hall bookings (Tom McCahill): 01655 882884
St Cuthbert's Primary, Maybole: 01655 882349
Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr: 01292 268379

PARISH PRAYER

Lord, we are Your people, the sheep of Your flock. Heal the sheep who are wounded, touch the sheep who are lonely, find the sheep who have strayed, warm the lambs who are cold. May we know the Father's love through Jesus the Good Shepherd and through the Holy Spirit. Help us to share that love with others, and to show it to our country and our world. Help us to build love on justice and justice on love. Help us to believe firmly, to hope joyfully, to love divinely. Renew us so that we may renew the face of the earth. Amen

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, make me a better person: more considerate toward others, more honest with myself, more faithful to you.

Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.

Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to enter priesthood or religious life may have the generosity to answer your call, so that those who need your help may always find it.

Fifth Sunday of the Year—5th February, 2012

The gospel passage this Sunday shows us clearly what kind of human being Jesus was. He tackled disease and oppression by evil spirits head on, seeing them as enemies of God's kingdom and barriers to faith in a loving God. We get a glimpse too of the very core of his lifestyle, what made it so effective in action - his prayer relationship with his Father. It was an intense personal relationship, which fed his every word and deed.

Jesus encourages all of us to have a similar prayer relationship, going to our rooms unobserved and quietly seeking our Father's presence. Entering our own interior room, within the deepest part of our being, we silently acknowledge the presence of the Trinity within. It is a great privilege to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who points us to Jesus who leads us to the Father. Co-operation at this deep level of prayer, shown to us by Jesus, enables us to carry out our mission more effectively.

Items for inclusion in this newsletter
should be given in writing
to David Kiltie (882644 or david.kiltie@virgin.net)

Last week's collection £466.42
Ecclesiastical Students Fund £134.50
Many thanks!

World Day of the Sick



Since 1992, the Catholic Church has celebrated World Day of the Sick on 11th February—the day on which the church commemorates the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. World Day of the Sick has three consistent themes. First, it reminds the faithful to pray intensely and sincerely for those who are sick. Second, the celebration invites Christians to reflect on and respond to human suffering. And third, this day recognises and honours all those who work in health care and serve as caregivers.

The Pope's mission intention for February is “that the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.”

Happy Birthday Tom

Tom Waugh would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and gifts he received for his 70th birthday. He had a great day and will remember it for a long time to come. For those younger members of the parish, can we point out that when Tom was born people didn't have television in their home. There were no frozen foods, credit cards, ball-point pens, tights, washing machines, tumble dryers, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, computers, calculators, CDs. Hardware and software weren't even words - and man hadn't walked on the moon! Very, very few people had telephones or cars and pizza, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of!

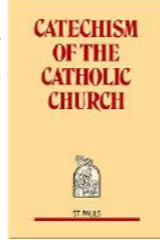


We could go on but would we be believed?

Dates for the diary

Saturday 18th February 2012

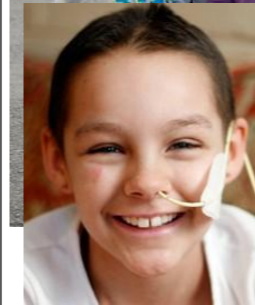
The Sacraments in the Catechism—Fr Mark Kelly, St Quivox Church Hall, Prestwick. 11.30am until 3pm. Participants should take a packed lunch; tea/coffee will be provided. For more information contact Fr William McFadden, 01557 330687, or by e mail at rchurchkb@btinternet.com



Saturday 28th April 2012 The Moral Teaching in the Catechism—Fr Stephen McGrattan, St John's Church Hall, Cumnock. 11.30am till 3pm.

Saturday 2nd June 2012 Prayer in the Catechism—Fr Joe Boland, St Mary's Church Hall, Irvine. 11.30am until 3pm

150 Club winners
 Congratulations to the January winners in the 150 Club draw:
 £25 Alex Meek no. 134
 £15 Jim McDermott Jnr no. 91
 £10 Ellen Hawkes no. 132



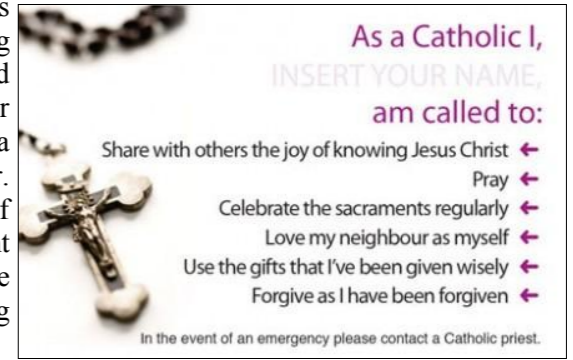
Well done the kind-hearted pupils of St Cuthbert's Primary who wanted to help to raise funds for Vanessa Riddle. They raised a wonderful £117!

English bishops to distribute cards to Catholics declaring their faith

A card communicating that its carrier is a baptised Catholic is to be distributed nationally on behalf of the bishops of England and Wales. One million cards will be handed out in order to cultivate evangelisation among Catholics. The credit-card-size resource features on one side a clear statement that the carrier is a Catholic and a list of six things that Catholics are called to do. There is also a sentence that reads: “In the event of an emergency, please contact a Catholic priest.”

Bishop Kieran Conry said: “We all carry a variety of cards in our purses and wallets which reflect something of our identity and the things that are important to us. The faith card for Catholics aims to offer a daily reminder of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We can't summarise the whole of our faith in bullet points, but we hope that the card simply inspires people to do, read and learn more.”

The bishop added: “The card is also designed to give Catholics confidence to share their faith—often people need help knowing what to say. Faith is a not a private matter. Carrying a faith card takes courage, it signals to others, every time you use your wallet or purse, that you believe in God, that your life has a purpose, that you are trying to love and serve your neighbour. We hope that Catholics will use it to witness to their faith. If someone asks a question about Catholicism, a starting point could be to show the card and to take it from there.” The resource is free and will be distributed to diocesan offices during February and March 2012 for local circulation.



Access to Water on Pope's Prayer List

Pope Benedict XVI will be praying this month that no one will be denied the resources they need for daily life.

His general intention is "that all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life."



Lourdes Hospitalité AGM

Please see notice on notice board.

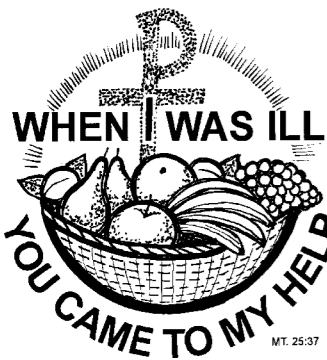
Sacramental Preparation Meeting—A meeting for parents (without children on this occasion please) will be held on Wednesday 8th February at 7.00pm as agreed at the last meeting .

Catholic Social Teaching

‘For unless the Christian message of love and justice shows its effectiveness through action in the cause of justice in the world, it will only with difficulty gain credibility with the people of our times.’
Justice in the World 35

BUILDING FUND TOTAL
20000
19000
18000
17000
16000
15000
14000
13000
12000
11000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
Thank you!

Please remember those who are sick



Helen Henderson, Kathleen Ward, Lee-Anne McLean, Reginald and Helen Beans, Jessie Doherty, Marie Murray, Billy Torbett, Edward Purvis, Daniel Gallacher, Andy Currie, Mackenzie Ratcliffe, Patrick Kelly, Maureen Fox, Darren Blanks, Sheena Eaglesham, Meg Jess, McKenzie Auld, Elizabeth Mason, Richard Ferrol, Thomas Pollock, Gerry Pettigrew, Cyril Dorrian, Janet White, Anne Speirs, Margaret Malone, Iain Henderson, Morag Henderson, David Morrell, Chris Sturgeon, Anne Hendry, Mary Brown, Mary Doyle, David Menzies, Jimmy Hawkes, Rachel Douglas, Vicky Fulton, John Gorman and Joseph McLanaghan.

In our bidding prayers at Mass we pray for all the sick listed here. If you know someone who should be added to (or taken from) this list please let Fr Philip know.

MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	READER	PRAYER BEFORE MASS & BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS & BELLRINGERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC	SUPERVISOR CHILDREN'S LIT	COUNTERS
Sat 4th Feb 5th Sunday of the Year	Ruth Collins	Alex Meek	David Malone Jnr John Malone	Robin Donald	Phoebe, Ronan, Patrick	Nicola		Chris Connolly Betty McCaffery
Sun 5th Jan 5th Sunday of the Year	Blair Hannah	Abbie Valdrighi	Irene Hewitt Margaret Kiltie	Tony Kerrigan Dennis McCaffery	Brody, Finlay, Toni, Dara, Deghlán	Children's Mass		
Sat 11th Feb 6th Sunday of the Year	Matthew Reilly	Caoimhe Hunter Blair	Margaret Reilly Maureen Hay	Alex Kelly David Malone	Zak, Ciera, Emily	Nicola		Jim McDermott Irene Hewitt Wilma Valdrighi
Sun 12th Feb 6th Sunday of the Year	Tom Dowman	Eileen Hamilton	Jim McDermott Elizabeth Meek	Chic McDermott Cindy McEwan	Rebecca, Josh, Aidan, Dara	Maria	Gerry Murphy	